

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF PETER T. MILLER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Peter T. Miller, the chief photographer for WKYC Channel 3 in Cleveland, Ohio and winner of eight Emmy awards.

A graduate of Kent State University in the 1950's, Mr. Miller began his 42-year career as a television cameraman in Cleveland with WJW Channel 8 in 1959. During his time there, he received Emmy awards from the Cleveland regional chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for documentaries about the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and the Hattie Larlham Foundation and for an entertainment feature about the Singing Angels. In 1985, Mr. Miller began his work at Channel 3, where in 1986 he received honors for Individual Achievement in News Videography for a Halloween series. In 1998 he was part of the WKYC team that took first place honors for its report, "On Schindler's List", from the Association for Women in Communications.

Fellow photographers marveled at Mr. Miller's work ethic, sense of teamwork, understanding of a story and artful eye. Traveling tirelessly in order to document the day's happenings, he was often seen locally attending football games, visiting nursing homes, observing school board meetings, or covering urban riots. He even took his camera abroad, showing Greater Clevelanders sites from around the world from music concerts to the Persian Gulf War.

My fellow colleagues, please join me today in honoring the memory of Peter T. Miller, a gifted television photographer whose dedication and passion for his life's work provided Clevelanders with valuable images of important events from around the world.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY JANE GARDNER

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and honor Ms. Mary Jane Gardner of my 34th Congressional District in Pico Rivera, California. Later this month, Ms. Gardner will be awarded the "Club Woman of the Year" award by the Pio Pico Woman's Club for her invaluable public service to her community.

Mary Jane was born on December 30, 1921 in Walla Walla, Washington. After finishing high school and a year of business college, she went to work at a local bank in Walla Walla. During World War II, Mary Jane met a young aviator named Garth Gardner who was

in Walla Walla for training at the local air base. The two married upon his return from the South Pacific in 1945.

After the marriage ceremony, Garth was discharged from the service and the two settled in Pico Rivera in 1950. They raised three sons, John, Gregory and Jeffrey, and became active in local community affairs. Mary Jane was PTA President and helped Garth establish his political career. She served as first lady of Pico Rivera eight times while her husband served as mayor. She helped organize various political functions and gave much of her time to different causes and organizations in and around Pico Rivera.

Mary Jane has shown true commitment to public service while also raising a family. All of Pico Rivera's citizens are grateful for her service and dedication to her community and wish her many more future successes.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON MARCH 2, 2001

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, 21 National Guardsmen lost their lives when their C-23 transport plane crashed. The guard members were returning from a training mission in Florida—one of the pilots lived in my district.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of these soldiers, and this tragedy serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who serve and protect our country.

Mr. Speaker, last week, both the House and Senate passed resolutions honoring the life of NASCAR great, Dale Earnhardt, who was killed in the Daytona 500. I, of course share in the admiration of his life and the remorse in his death.

I do want to make the point, however, that the guardsmen who lost their lives on Saturday were no less dedicated to their jobs, their families, or their communities. The men and women in our armed services place their lives on the line daily, where even routine training missions can carry the same risk as actual combat.

So I ask my colleagues to remember those who serve our Nation. They may not have the notoriety, but their service is immeasurable.

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW "MACK" ROBINSON

**HON. ADAM SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the Pasadena branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is celebrating its

18th Annual Ruby McKnight Williams Awards Banquet on March 8, 2001 and I would like to join in honoring the memory of a famed Pasadena native son, Matthew "Mack" Robinson.

Mack Robinson was a world-class athlete. Competing in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany, he won a silver medal in the 200-meter run, crossing the finish line just a step behind that great Olympian, Jesse Owens. Mack's roots in Pasadena ran deep. He was a track star at Pasadena City College in 1938, the same year his younger brother, future Dodgers' great Jackie Robinson, lettered there in four sports. Mack set national junior college records in the 100- and 200-meter runs and in the long jump. When the Olympic games were held in Los Angeles in 1984, Mack helped carry the Olympic flag into Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. He cared deeply for his community and, later in life, was renowned for leading the fight against street crime in Pasadena.

One of Mack's great causes was ensuring a monument was built in his hometown to honor his brother, the man who in 1947 broke major league baseball's color barrier. The Pasadena Robinson Memorial, honoring both brothers, was dedicated in 1997. Pasadena City College last year renamed its stadium to honor the pioneering brothers and Congress last year approved naming the post office at 600 Lincoln Avenue in Pasadena, California, as the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building."

Sadly, Mack died at the age of 88 in Pasadena on March 12, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Pasadena NAACP in saluting Mack Robinson for the shining example he presented in sports and in life. Mack Robinson was truly a champion in all he did.

IN HONOR OF DOROTHY OLIVIA GREENWOOD TOLLIVER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dorothy Olivia Greenwood Tolliver. Dorothy was a great servant of the people of Cleveland and leader of the African-American community. Her recent death, at the age of 80, is a sorrowful event for the entire Cleveland, Ohio community.

After graduating from Kent State and pursuing further studies at The Julliard School of Music in New York, she returned to Cleveland and began working for the U.S. Government making maps to use during World War II. After the war, Dorothy taught briefly in Medina, and in 1948 she returned to Cleveland to become a part of the Cleveland School System where she remained until her retirement in 1986.

As a young child, Dorothy was blessed with the gift of musical ability. With her long-lasting passion of music and the arts, she performed

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

in several productions. Her love for music was planted in her many students as a music teacher. While in the Cleveland Public School System, Dorothy directed numerous performances.

Dorothy Olivia Greenwood Tolliver was a life long member of the NAACP, and the National Council of Negro Women. Her civic activities included the Phyllis Wheatley Association, juvenile justice, Project Friendship, Volunteer Guardianship Program, Upward Bound, City Club, and the League of Women Voters. One of her noted prestigious movements was opening the Neighborhood Book Shoppe, the first book store in Ohio that featured books about African-American history by African-American authors, the only store of its kind between New York City and Chicago.

After her career as a teacher ended, Dorothy spent her remaining years supporting her husband's efforts while serving on the Cleveland School Board and continuing his civil rights law practice.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring the memory of this great community leader and role model.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. BERT CORONA

#### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the Latino community's most devout civil rights and labor leaders. Mr. Bert Corona passed away January 15, 2001 in Los Angeles following a series of recent health problems. His death was a watershed in Latino and labor history.

Born on May 29, 1918 in El Paso, Texas, Mr. Corona spent his childhood moving back and forth between El Paso and the Mexican city of Chihuahua. As a student at the University of Southern California, he became involved in the labor ferment of the 1930's. He was elected President of Local 26 of the International Longshoreman and Warehouse Union where he was a close political ally of Harry Bridges, one of labor's most progressive leaders.

During World War II, Bert served in the United States Army Air Corps as a paratrooper and a surgical assistant. Following the war, Mr. Corona returned to his activist role founding organizations that promoted the empowerment of Latinos and working with great determination to end discrimination among minorities. In the 1960's he founded CASA and Hermandad Mexican, housing and immigrants rights organizations. Bert also helped found the Mexican American Political Association, one of California's oldest Latino political organizations.

In 1993, Corona published "Memories of Chicano History," his autobiography written with Mario T. Garcia. The book has become a staple in Chicano and ethnic studies courses at universities throughout the country. Throughout his life, Bert himself taught at several universities including Stanford and the California State campuses of San Diego, Northridge, Fullerton and Los Angeles.

It was Bert Corona's vision that helped build the foundation to pave the way for Latino advancement in our society. Many Latino leaders

of today, including myself, are the beneficiaries of his pioneering efforts. His life offers an invaluable lesson about Latino leadership in the past and provides an inspiring guide for future empowerment and contributions to the American social fabric.

I extend my heartfelt sympathies to his wife Angelina, daughter Margo De Ley, sons David, Frank and Ernesto Corona and grandchildren Baltazar De Ley, Lisa and Clarity Corona.

#### H.R. 860, THE MULTIDISTRICT, MULTIPARTY, MULTIFORUM TRIAL JURISDICTION ACT OF 2001

#### HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Trial Jurisdiction Act of 2001.

This legislation addresses two important issues in the world of complex, multidistrict litigation. Section 2 of the bill would reverse the effects of the 1998 Supreme Court decision in the so-called *Lexecon* case. It would simply amend the multidistrict litigation statute by explicitly allowing a transferee court to retain jurisdiction over referred cases for trial, or refer them to other districts, as it sees fit. In fact, section 2 only codifies what had constituted ongoing judicial practice for nearly 30 years prior to the *Lexecon* decision.

Section 3 addresses a particular specie of complex litigation—so-called "disaster" cases, such as those involving airline accidents. The language set forth in my bill is a revised version of a concept which, beginning in the 101st Congress, has been supported by the Department of Justice, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, two previous Democratic Congresses, and one previous Republican Congress. Section 3 will help to reduce litigation costs as well as the likelihood of forum shopping in single-accident mass tort cases. All plaintiffs in these cases will ordinarily be situated identically, making the case for consolidation of their actions especially compelling. These types of disasters—with their hundreds of thousands of plaintiffs and numerous defendants—have the potential to impair the orderly administration of justice in federal courts for an extended period of time.

Mr. Speaker, during the eleventh-hour negotiations with the Senate last term, I offered to make three changes in an effort to generate greater support for the bill. As a show of good faith, I incorporate those changes in the bill I am introducing today. They consist of the following:

First, a plaintiff must allege at least \$150,000 in damages (up from \$75,000) to file in U.S. district court.

Second, an exception to the minimum diversity rule is created: A U.S. district court may not hear any case in which a "substantial majority" of plaintiffs and the "primary" defendants are citizens of the same state; and in which the claims asserted are governed "primarily" by the laws of that same state. In other words, only state courts may hear such cases.

Third, the choice-of-law section will be stricken. It confers too much discretionary au-

thority on a federal judge to select the relevant law that will apply in a given case.

In sum, Mr. Speaker, this legislation speaks to process, fairness, and judicial efficiency. It will not interfere with jury verdicts or compensation rates for litigators. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in a bipartisan effort to support the Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Jurisdiction Act of 2001.

#### THE "CHILD SUPPORT FAIRNESS AND FEDERAL TAX REFUND INTERCEPTION ACT OF 2001"

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Child Support Fairness and Federal Tax Refund Interception Act of 2001." This legislation expands the eligibility of one of our most effective means of enforcing child support orders—intercepting the Federal tax refunds of parents delinquent in paying their court-ordered financial support for their children. Under current law, the Federal tax refund offset program operated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is limited to cases where the child is either a minor or a disabled adult.

It goes without saying that a parent who brings a child into this world is responsible for providing for that child's physical needs regardless of any conflict with the child's custodial parent. In July 1999, I received a letter from Lisa McCave of Wilmington, Delaware. She wanted to know where the justice was in the IRS allowing her husband to collect a \$2,426 tax refund when he still owed her nearly \$7,000 in back child support just because her son is no longer a minor and is not disabled.

Since her son was three, Ms. McCave has had to work two jobs to make up for child support installments that were never paid. She has spent the better part of her time away from work tracking down her former husband, who has often quit his job as soon as his wages were garnished to repay this debt. Now, she is trying to pay off \$55,000 in parent loans she incurred to send her son to college. Mr. Speaker, we all know the answer to Lisa McCave's question. Under the current law, there is no justice in limiting the eligibility for this tax intercept program to minors and disabled adults.

The good news is that we can correct this injustice. Improving our child support enforcement programs in neither a Republican nor a Democrat issue—it is an issue that should concern all of us. According to recent government statistics, there are approximately 12 million active cases where a child support order requires a noncustodial parent to contribute towards the support of his/her child. Of the \$22 billion owed pursuant to these orders in 1999, only half have been paid. I am confident we can all agree to fix this injustice in our Federal tax refund offset program and help some of our most needy constituents receive the financial relief they are owed.

I would like to clarify for everyone's benefit that this legislation does not create a cause of action for a custodial parent to seek additional child support. The existing program merely

helps custodial parents recover debt they are owed for a level of child support that are set by a court after both sides had the opportunity to present their arguments about the proper size of the child support.

In the 106th Congress, this legislation passed the House by a vote of 405 to 18 as a provision in H.R. 4678, the "Child Support Distribution Act of 2000." The Senate version of this bill also enjoyed strong bipartisan support, but the 106th Congress expired before the Senate could complete its consideration.

The Federal tax refund offset program is responsible for retrieving nearly one-tenth of all back child support collected. The time has come to make it a greater success. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to working with the House Ways and Means Committee to work to bring this bill to the House Floor.

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IN MEMORY OF SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON

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**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a truly remarkable man, one who genuinely exemplified what it means to be a public servant, Senator Alan Cranston.

Cranston served four terms in the United States Senate, and as the Democratic Whip during seven consecutive Congressional sessions. But more than that he served the American people. He fought to protect the environment, to promote peace and human rights and to control nuclear arms, fighting tirelessly to prevent future usage of such weapons. Cranston did not compromise his personal views nor the best interests of his constituents during his service.

A masterful legislator, Senator Cranston often served as an integral figure in the passage of legislation. This deft political touch allowed him to build coalitions, using the power of an idea to transcend ideological barriers.

An advocate of peace, Senator Cranston was an influential figure in the termination of the Vietnam war and in leading U.S. arms control and peace movements. Despite his opposition for war, he lead support for the soldiers who fought in the conflict, voting solidly for veterans' benefits legislation from 1969 and 1992.

As former aide Daniel Perry wrote in Roll Call January 4, 2001, Cranston embodied the maxim, "a leader can accomplish great things if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."

My fellow colleagues, Senator Alan Cranston is a man who deserves the respect and admiration of every citizen. Let us recognize him for his years of dedication to public service.

IN MEMORY OF U.S. SOLDIERS  
KILLED IN SAUDI ARABIA

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2000*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 25, 2001, a decade after the Iraqi Scud missile attack on the U.S. barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, a young woman who lost her husband and the father of her two children spoke eloquently about the impact of that awful event. While the magnitude of such a tragedy can never be fully overcome, her story is also one of renewal and healing and joy. It is a poignant and fitting tribute to the men and women who perished that day. I want to share her remarks with my Colleagues:

If ten years ago I could have looked ahead to today, and could have seen myself standing here telling all of you that I'm happy, healed, and whole again, it would have made my time of grief so much easier. Because then I would have known that my heart would someday heal and life would be worth living again. That's not how I felt then. My life was shattered into a million pieces and I couldn't see how they could ever be put back together again.

John and I worked at the Baptist Homes, a nursing facility in Castle Shannon. My mother introduced us and we became instant friends. John was so easy to like. He was friendly and outgoing . . . always with a twinkle in his eye. A couple months into our friendship, John asked me to be his date at a party he was throwing. Of course I said that I would go. He asked me to dance to a slow song that came on the stereo, and that dance was the beginning of a great love in my life.

John and I married the following summer. We had two beautiful children, Matthew and Melissa. John loved fatherhood and it suited him . . . really he was a kid in an adult body so it sort of came natural to him. We bought a house and spent Melissa's first Christmas in it . . . that's when Saddam Hussein intruded on our lives. Before I knew what was happening, John was on his way to the Persian Gulf and I knew my life would never be the same.

The day of February 25th started out with a letter from John. He said all the things that he said in every letter I ever got from him, how much he loved us, how much he missed us. Then he told me about the SCUD alerts. He talked about the gas masks and the chaos and I worried. That evening I was out with my sister and I returned home to find family members waiting for me. My brother was standing in my living room and the television was on. On it I saw soldiers running and heard yelling and chaos and sirens blasting . . . but that didn't grab my attention as much as the look on my brother's face. He asked me where John was in Saudi. I told him I didn't know. He said that there was a SCUD attack in Dhahran and the missile hit a warehouse and they believed the 14th was being housed there. As I was taking in what he was telling me, the room started to spin and a feeling of dread came flooding over me. I asked, "Were there casualties?" he said there were some. But the highest number were injuries. I knew that John was in that warehouse. My family tried to reassure me that chances were that he was injured, but in my spirit, I knew that he was gone. I had already felt the separation. I waited all night for the officer to come. And at 6 am

my doorbell rang. I opened the door and there was Lt. Col. Richard White. He had so much pain in his eyes. I saw how difficult it was for him to tell me that my husband, Spc. John Boliver, had been killed in action due to injuries sustained in an Iraqi SCUD missile attack.

A few weeks after John's funeral my friend invited me for dinner. She wanted to spend a little time with me and to get me out. Her husband, who is also my friend, had done a large portion of John's funeral service, and he asked me so sincerely how I was doing. I told him that I was okay, but that the nights were so difficult for me to get through. When I would sleep, the nightmares were terrible, so I was trying not to sleep at all. He told me something then that helped to change my life. He said, "Paula, when you go through the worst times of grief, you need to find an anchor. Something stable for you to hold onto so that grief won't sweep you away. Something that can never change or be taken away from you."

I went home that night and looked for my anchor. The only thing I had that could never be taken away from me was that God loved me. He loved me so much and He wanted to comfort me and to heal my heart. He wanted to put the shattered pieces of my life back together. Jer. 29:11 was one of many promises: I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. That was what I needed, and that was what I began to build my life on.

It was the second spring after John's death. I went outside on my deck and the sun was shining and the trees were budding, and the smells of spring were so heavy in the air. All of a sudden I realized that I was enjoying the sun on my face and the smells of spring. It was as if everything I saw was in color, and I had been seeing life in black and white. The feeling of contentment only lasted a brief time but I realized that day I was getting better. That someday I could enjoy life again.

Then four years after I lost John, I found Phil, or maybe he found me. However it was, we just seemed to fit together. The kids fell in love with Phil right along with me, and he fell in love with us too, and he married us. He made our family complete again and I thank God every day for him. Then four years into our marriage, God gave us Alison, our nineteen month old daughter. Alison had a difficult beginning. She was born with Down syndrome, but more importantly, with two little holes in her heart that were life-threatening. She was life-flighted to Children's Hospital and I was afraid that I would never see her alive again. I wrestled with God for three nights over her diagnosis. I questioned His reasons for making her with such a disability. But more than anything, I wanted her to live. I told God that if He spared her life, I would be the best mother to her that I could be. I understand how precious life was and that God makes no mistakes. Boy did He answer my prayer. She was a miracle baby. She got better and stronger and both of those little holes closed over and her heart is healthy. And she's the love of my life. She brings me so much joy every day. When she smiles, her whole face smiles. All the love that I lost in that scud missile attack, God gave back to me and multiplied it. How grateful I am to Him. I am so thankful for God's faithfulness and love to me.

This is just my story. We all have a story, wounds and scars of our hearts that tell the stories of our lives. They make us who we are. But if those scars and wounds make us more compassionate toward others who are suffering, if they makes us more grateful for every day we live and for the ones we love,

and stronger for the difficulties that lie ahead on this journey called "life," then our soldiers' sacrifice is all the more meaningful—to us and to all of those whose lives we touch, because we have become better human beings.

I want to thank my family, who loved John so much and grieved with me, to my children who are my angels—they gave me reason to get up every morning and gave me so much love.

I want to thank my friends and my Church family who prayed for me faithfully and encouraged me daily, and most of all to my mom, who was the best friend I ever had and I'll always miss her.

I also want to thank the families of the 14th Quartermaster. We have cried together and laughed together. We have shared our deepest pain and our greatest joys. Your strength gave me strength. Your courage gave me courage. The circumstances of our meeting were so tragic and yet I am so grateful to have known you.

And to Janet Glasser, our family support coordinator. Janet, you were the glue. Without you, we would never have had the support system that we had. You were so far above what your job required of you. You have been like a big sister to me. I can't even begin to thank you for everything you've done. I am so grateful to have you in my life.

To my husband Phil, for always loving me and letting me be who I am. For taking Matt and Melissa into your life and making them your own. For our little Alison, our little angel that we are so privileged to be parents to. For being my best friend.

And my utmost gratitude to John Boliver . . . for the love he brought into my life, for the two children he made with me, for all the laughing we did, and all the silly arguments. . . . I loved it all and I wouldn't change a thing. He brought me so much joy and taught me so much about courage. I will always hold him in my heart until we meet again in glory.

Thank you—Paula Wukovich.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PAT TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 23, 24, and 25. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 23, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 24, and "nay" on rollcall vote No. 25.

#### IN HONOR OF GEROME RITA STEFANSKI

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gerome Rita Stefanski. A loving mother of five children and a courageous businesswoman, Mrs. Stefanski's life serves as a beautiful example of the American dream come true.

Daughter of Helen and Alexander Rutkowski, Gerome Rita Stefanski was raised in a loving and caring environment. From her parents, Mrs. Stefanski learned strong family

values which helped her in raising her own children. Married in 1937, Mrs. Stefanski was mother to five children: Ben, Hermine Cech, Abigail, Floyd and Marc. Throughout her life, Gerome Rita Stefanski always made her family her first priority. Foregoing a career as a social worker, Mrs. Stefanski chose to stay at home and raise her children to assure that they would grow up in the same loving environment which she had known as a child.

Mrs. Stefanski attended college at Notre Dame College of Ohio and earned a master's degree from Catholic University of Washington, D.C. At her college graduation, Mrs. Stefanski was awarded the Bishop Schrembs Cross for recognition of her superior essay on the subject of religion as a working principle of life. She was also recently awarded an honorary doctorate from Notre Dame College of Ohio.

Shortly after her marriage, Gerome Rita Stefanski was an important partner in the founding of the Third Federal Savings Association. Working closely with her husband Ben, she prepared all of the original organizational documents. Mrs. Stefanski served as the sole advertising manager and wrote all of its publications for almost fifty years. A pioneer of the increased role of women in the workplace, Mrs. Stefanski became the Third Federal Savings Association's first female director in 1981.

Mrs. Gerome Rita Stefanski was a brilliant businesswoman and a loving mother. My fellow Congressmen, please join me in celebrating the life of Gerome Rita Stefanski.

#### BILL FRENZEL, ORDER OF THE RISING SUN

#### HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take a moment to recognize one of our former colleagues, Bill Frenzel of Minnesota. Bill recently received the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan. This decision is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on someone of non-Japanese descent. Such a distinguished honor highlights his dedication and many years of service to the development of Japanese-American relations. Many of these efforts began right here while he was serving on the House Ways and Means Committee. Bill was known as the most active Republican on trade matters and was an instrumental player in the advancement of the trade relationship between America and Japan.

During the last six years, Bill has served as the Chairman of the Japan-America Society of Washington, DC, a non-partisan educational and cultural organization. Founded in 1957, it serves as the primary forum in the Mid-Atlantic region for promoting understanding between the two countries. While there, Bill has worked hard to foster the development of an open, U.S.-Japanese dialogue. His efforts helped create an honest discussion regarding cultural differences, unfair trade practices, protectionist measures and the need for increased Japanese participation in multinational corporations.

Bill's work has been essential in creating stronger ground for trade relations between

our great nations. His commitment to secure a productive working relationship has resulted in a sound base that will further continuing economic and political endeavors. It is an honor to recognize his work today on the floor, and I thank him for his dedication to such an important area of our foreign policy.

#### AL RESCINIO, MAN OF THE YEAR, AMERIGO VESPUCCI SOCIETY

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 3, the Amerigo Vespucci Society of Long Branch, N.J., my hometown, honored Al Rescinio as Man of the Year. I am proud to say that Al is a constituent and friend who has made innumerable contributions to our community, our county, and our state.

Al was born and educated in Long Branch and later graduated from Upsala College with a degree in business. He worked for the international organization of certified public accountants, Haskins & Sells, while he and his wife Marge raised their four children. These children, who no doubt are Al's greatest source of pride and satisfaction, are now all successful professionals—individuals who are in turn making their own contributions to society.

In 1968, Al started his own firm, Umberto Rescinio, C.P.A. Since then, he has participated in many national organizations and charities, giving back to those in need some of what he earned and achieved throughout his career.

Locally, he has been affiliated with the Monmouth County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission and the NJ State Planning Council of Central Jersey. He has received many awards and citations for his contributions.

On March 3, members of the Amerigo Vespucci Society honored him and thanked him for helping to raise the \$62,000 that was donated this year to local charities by the Society. On that night, it was apparent how one man and one civic-minded organization can make a big difference in the lives of the citizens of their community.

#### IN HONOR OF REVEREND FATHER RAPHAEL (ALBERT) ZBIN, O.S.B.

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Father Raphael (Albert) Zbin, O.S.B., a man whose strong personality challenged others to work hard to build a spiritually, socially and physically sound community.

A native of Lakewood, Ohio, Father Raphael served much of his eighty years as both a religious and educational leader. While attending St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kansas, he entered the Benedictine Order and professed his vows as a monk in 1942. The following

year he returned to Kansas and received his bachelor's degree in science.

Father Raphael then returned to Cleveland to begin studies for the priesthood at the former St. Joseph's Seminary of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers while also teaching part-time at Benedictine High School. During his thirty years of teaching, Father Raphael became a prominent figure in the Cleveland Diocesan School system. His reputation as a strict disciplinarian motivated his students to study diligently and win numerous contests. Twenty-eight of the fifty-three highest honors projects recognized in the 1957 Diocesan Science Fair came from Benedictine due to Father Raphael's exceptional ability to challenge his students to produce quality work.

After receiving his master of science degree in biology from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, Father Raphael was elected chairman for the American Benedictine Academy's Science Division. In 1966, he was named Outstanding Science Teacher of Northeastern Ohio by the Ohio Academy of Science.

In 1976, Father Raphael became the pastor of St. Andrew Svorad Parish in downtown Cleveland. For the past quarter century, his tireless energetic spirit brought about a number of renovations to the parish's physical plant and increased parish unity through his organization of many socials and dinners.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring the memory of Reverend Father Raphael (Albert) Zbin, a monk of Saint Andrew Abbey, who always saw work to be done. Let us aspire in our own efforts to be such examples of hard work and dedication to improvement.

#### WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS CONFORMING AMENDMENTS OF 2001

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Conforming Amendments of 2001. This bill is a technical correction to legislation adopted by the 105th Congress that ensures reconstructive surgery coverage for all stages of reconstruction, including symmetrical reconstruction, for breast cancer patients.

During the 105th Congress, I introduced the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998. A specific provision of this bill that requires coverage for reconstructive procedures after breast cancer surgery was passed into law in Title IX of the 1998 Omnibus Budget Bill. While passage of that legislation was a wonderful step forward, a loophole has been identified which seriously weakens the intent of this legislation. The bill I am introducing again today, would correct this flaw by conforming the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to the requirements consistent with the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act. This change would provide a civil monetary penalty against those health plans who fail to provide coverage for breast reconstruction following mastectomy or other breast cancer surgery.

There is indeed precedence for such a technical correction. Similar corrections were made to the Internal Revenue Code as part of the Taxpayer's Relief Act of 1997 to ensure compliance to the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 and the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996. The correction I am seeking today is like these and would ensure compliance to the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998.

Studies have documented that the fear of losing a breast is a leading reason why women do not participate in early breast cancer detection programs. Now that coverage is guaranteed for reconstructive surgery following breast cancer surgery, it is time to put the teeth in that language and hold health plans accountable for providing that coverage. As we begin to set the agenda for the 107th Congress, let us make this important correction to ensure the best possible support for breast cancer victims.

#### COMMENDING THE UKRAINIAN LEADERSHIP ON ITS EXPRESSION OF UNITY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend Ukraine's leadership—President Leonid Kuchma, Chairman of the Rada Ivan Pliushch, and Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko—for their unified address to the Ukrainian nation on February 13th.

Mr. Speaker, recently the country of Ukraine has been faced with a degree of turmoil as a result of the kidnapping and murder of a journalist, Georgy Gongadze. As Ukraine's leadership acknowledged in their statement, the investigation into this incident was initially marred by delays and inconsistencies. However, the President, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Rada have pledged that all measures will now be taken to get to the bottom of this case as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, this united affirmation by the three highest officials in Ukraine will help quell some of the recent unrest, propel the investigation of Gongadze's death, and speed Ukraine's return to normalcy.

#### TRIBUTE TO FAY COHEN

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, a very special person, Fay Cohen, is being honored by her friends and colleagues on the occasion of her retirement as aide to Massachusetts State Senator Cynthia Creem.

Fay Cohen is special in many ways. She is a woman who has successfully balanced her professional life with years of volunteering for the causes she believed in. She is, indeed, a person with a special commitment to the democratic ideals we all espouse.

Fay Cohen served her community as an elected official on the Newton, Massachusetts Board of Aldermen. She was a tireless campaigner for the Massachusetts Democratic Party, and for political candidates who went on to serve both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States Congress. Senator EDWARD KENNEDY, Senator JOHN KERRY, former Congressman Robert Drinan, Governor Michael Dukakis, State Senator Lois Pines and I have all been the recipients of Fay Cohen's wisdom, dedication and hard work.

Fay Cohen may be retiring from her professional career, but I know that I and others who have relied on Fay's political astuteness will never let her retire from being one of our cherished activists.

#### IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND SOUTHEAST LIONS CLUB

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cleveland Southeast Lions Club for 50 years of public service.

For the last fifty years, the Cleveland Southeast Lions Club has been committed to serving the greater Cleveland area. This service organization works earnestly to provide numerous philanthropic donations to charities all over the world.

In attempt to extend a helping hand, the Cleveland Southeast Lions Club annually hosts an East West All Star Football game in order to raise money for worthy programs such as the Saint Vincent Charity Hospital Lions Eye Clinic, Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation, Blind Welfare, and other deserving organizations. The Cleveland Southeast Lions Club strives to reach out to the less fortunate by donating thousands of pounds of clothing and food to Saint Augustine's distribution to the needy. The members of the Cleveland Southeast Lions Club work daily to assist senior citizens by driving them to doctors appointments, the grocery store, or to the pharmacy. Not only are they involved in local services, the Cleveland Southeast Lions Club collects used eye glasses to be redistributed in the third world countries.

The Cleveland Southeast Lions Club cultivates to the spirit of service upon which they were found, taking a specific interest in children. This organization encourages a greater happiness for children with disabilities. By raising money with various fundraisers that promote community involvement, the Cleveland Southeast Lions Club helps send children to Camp Echoing Hills, a camp for individuals with disabilities.

It is evident that the Cleveland Southeast Lions Club has, over the years, played a crucial role in the community, and that its many years of service have been an invaluable contribution to the Cleveland community. For this work, the Northeast Ohio community is thankful.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the Cleveland Southeast Lions Club for their 50 years of public service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
GREENBACK HIGH SCHOOL  
CHEERLEADERS

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the National Cheerleading Championship was held here in the Nation's Capital. I am pleased that the National Championship Award in the small school varsity division went to the Greenback High School Cheerleaders, from Greenback, Tennessee.

Team members, Traci Russell, Amanda McKeenhan, Rebekah Raines, Kristi Evans, Sylvia Martin, Staci Kizer, Lynette Krohnfeldt, Melissa Spring, Chelsey Edmondson and Kallee Brooks are to be congratulated on winning the award for their outstanding performance.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join all Americans in wishing these young ladies best wishes on a job well done.

I have included a copy of a story written in the Maryville Daily Times describing their winning the National Title that I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

CHEERLEADERS ON CLOUD NINE AFTER  
WINNING NATIONAL TITLE

(By Stefan Cooper)

They sat cross legged on the floor, cool, calm and collected as they waited for the word.

Finally, the public address announcer in the ballroom of the Washington Hilton stepped to the microphone.

"And the national champion in the small school varsity division is . . . Greenback High School, Greenback, Tennessee."

"They just went straight up in the air," Pam Tipton, one of two sponsors for the Greenback High School cheerleaders, said.

Since claiming the All-American Cheer and Dance national championship Saturday in the nation's capitol, Traci Russell, Amanda McKeenhan, Rebekah Raines, Kristi Evans, Sylvia Martin, Staci Kizer, Lynette Krohnfeldt, Melissa Spring, Chelsey Edmondson and Kallee Brooks have yet to come down.

A large turnout—complete with WKXT Channel 8 in tow—met the team's plane at McGhee Tyson Airport late Saturday.

WATE Channel 6 showed up at the school Monday morning. Two area newspapers scheduled back-to-back interviews with the new champs Tuesday after school.

"The girls haven't had time to shave their legs, and I haven't had time to get my laundry done," Tipton said. "The reaction from the community, the TV stations coming, it's been mind-blowing."

Not to worry.

The team has come up with a catch phrase to deal with their newfound celebrity, Raines said: "Act casual."

The national title comes on the heels of a win in dance at a Universal Cheerleaders Association camp at the University of Tennessee last summer.

Prior to both, Tipton said, the team looked out of sync.

"The week before we went to camp, I said, 'This not going to come together,'" she said. "Put them in front of a crowd and it was, 'Whoa!'"

"Where did these girls come from?"

Regardless of the endeavor, it takes a lot of work to make a champion.

"A lot of people don't think cheerleaders are athletes," said Penny McKee, who co-sponsors the team along with Tipton. "Well, they are athletes. They trained for this."

The team practiced its students for competition 2½ hours a day when not cheering at Greenback sporting events.

Maryville College junior Nicole Johnson, an employee at Maryville's Gymnastics Counts, choreographed the squad's dance routine.

Johnson's friend Adriel McCord supplied the dance mix.

"The shake-your-booty part was their favorite," Johnson said. They stuck every stunt (in Washington). Their tumbling was good.

"They surpassed every expectation."

FEARLESS ONCE ON STAGE

It wasn't as easy as it seemed, Martin said. Prior to taking the stage each day of the two-day competition, everyone was a nervous wreck.

"Once the music starts," she said, "you just think about the routine." There, McKee said, the squad was flawless.

"They hit everything," she said. "It was perfect. That's the best I've ever seen them."

Much of the reason for the impact the championship has generated is due to the size of Greenback.

The school has an enrollment of 600 students, kindergarten through 12th grade. Only 220 of those students are freshmen or above.

At the championships, where the largest squad had 28 members, the size of the Greenback contingent was quick to catch the eye.

"Everywhere the other squads went, they took three or four elevators," McKee said. "We could all cram into one."

CHEMISTRY SPELLS SUCCESS

Key to the squad's success is its chemistry. Tipton said.

"Most of them have cheered from grade school up," she said. "They're really good friends, and they just click."

And when Russell, McKeenhan, Raines & Co. took the stage in front of a panel of six judges for the finals Saturday, it carried them through.

"They weren't nervous," Tipton said. "I was scared to death."

"We thought they had a chance to do it, but to actually have it happen is amazing."

"It's like something you see on TV, but you never think you'll be a part of it."

Topping it all off, once the trophy was claimed, Brooks, Raines and Edmondson were named to the championships' All-Star team and will represent AACD at the 2002 NFL Pro Bowl in Honolulu.

TOUR OF THE U.S. CAPITOL

It wasn't all work and no play during their five-day stay in Washington, Russell said.

U.S. Rep. John J. Duncan Jr. gave the team a tour of the Capitol building. U.S. Sen. Bill Frist arranged a visit to the White House.

"We did basket tosses over the gate," Martin joked.

The most memorable part of their visit, though?

"The subway," Russell said. "Definitely."

Kidding aside, they have a lot of people to thank, all 10 members said.

Without Johnson's choreography, it never would have happened, they said.

"We love you, Rudy," Russell said.

McKee, Tipton, classmates, and the town of Greenback, all said, have been tremendous.

"We're honored," Raines said. "We just wanted to make Greenback proud."

PROCLAMATION FOR RAY AND  
CATHY JANSEN

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation for the RECORD.

Whereas, on March 31, 2001, Family Service League is celebrating 75 years of providing comprehensive human services to the Long Island Community with a Gala Celebration entitled: "Restoring Hope . . . Rebuilding Lives," and

Whereas, on that evening, Family Service League will be honoring Catherine and Raymond Jansen for their many years in service to the Long Island Community, and

Whereas, Catherine and Raymond Jansen, both as individuals and as a team, have epitomized and set the standard for dedicated service to the Long Island community with their strong commitment to philanthropy and dedication to family, and

Whereas, Catherine Jansen, in addition to serving as a member of Family Service League's Board of Directors, is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hecksher Museum and serves on the Boards of Caumsett Park Foundation, Project R.E.A.L., United Way's Success by Six and the Three Harbors Garden Club, and

Whereas, Raymond Jansen, in addition to his recent appointment as Senior Vice President of the Tribune Publishing Company, and as president, publisher and CEO of Newsday, is known for his community service on many boards and philanthropies and for his leadership in bringing recognition to Long Island's everyday volunteers through Newsday's Winners Column, Every Day Heroes, and the Long Islander of the Century and FutureCorps. Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Catherine and Raymond Jansen, are here recognized in the United States Capitol for their many years of unselfish service to the Long Island community and will be presented with this Proclamation in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION  
FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW  
OF THE FAA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing a bill calling for a tough, comprehensive review of the Federal Aviation Administration. The legislation would establish a commission to focus on the critical need to improve aviation safety and to reduce airline delays. It would examine both air traffic services and safety oversight by the FAA, and make recommendations on both the organizational structure and processes of the agency.

This is the perfect time, with a new administration entering the White House, for an unbiased, impartial and independent commission to begin working toward a solution to make our skies safer and our airports more efficient. We owe it to the American traveling public to make our skies as safe as possible and to put an end to the horrendous delays we so often hear about and experience.



We should all be concerned about aviation safety. As air travel has increased, we have seen increases in runway incursions, operational errors among air traffic controllers, and near midair collisions. In 1999, one in five flights arrived late, with each delay averaging about 50 minutes. According to Ken Mead, inspector general for the Department of Transportation, when cancellations are added in, it's nearly one in four. A total of 1.5 million flights were delayed or canceled last year.

Since 1978, the number of daily departures has doubled and the number of passengers has risen 250 percent. In 1999, U.S. airlines carried 694 million passengers on 13 million flights. As air travel continues to increase, we need to ask whether FAA is up to the job of adequate safety oversight, and whether Congress can do more to guide the agency.

Mr. Speaker, the Boeing Company recently called for the need for a new air traffic control system and even offered to fund improvements to the system themselves.

A recent letter from D.J. Carty, chairman, president and CEO of American Airlines, says that American continues to be concerned about the airline industry's ability to serve the public transportation needs due to air traffic control and airport capacity constraints.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, representing over three million businesses, recently stated that the air transport crisis is damaging our economy with delays and congestion costing industry and its shippers over \$5 billion annually. Tom Donohue, Chamber president stated that skyrocketing demand and stagnant capacity are crippling the nation's aviation network and that we need a national strategy to streamline runway and airport construction and modernize our outdated air traffic control system.

Mr. Speaker, I also point out that operational errors among air traffic controllers are up significantly, as controllers try to cope with increasing traffic bearing down on crowded hub airports. At the same time these errors are up, the FAA has announced a plan to significantly reduce the number of operational supervisors available to assist and monitor that traffic. These errors have risen by 25 percent in the past two years alone.

In addition, runway incursions continue to go up, raising cries of alarm from the National Transportation Safety Board, the Office of Inspector General, and the Congress. The inspector general told the transportation appropriations subcommittee seven months ago "this safety issue is one that demands constant high-level attention," so we called for higher budgets, monthly reports and a national summit on the issue. Yet the most recent report shows that runway incursions have not gone down. They continue to go through the roof.

In addition, FAA has been unable to address the growing problem of airline delays. In the summer of 1999, delays were so high that the FAA announced a special review of its traffic management programs. This review concluded that the agency could do a lot more to provide efficient movement of aircraft around the country. Immediate improvements were promised. However, the delays of the past summer were just as high as the year before. It not worse.

The American traveling public is getting tired of these horrible delays. Business meetings are canceled, family gatherings are disrupted,

and commercial deals are passed up when airline commerce does not flow smoothly. I hear my colleagues complain practically every day about the incredible and unacceptable airline delays. For those of us who fly often, our quality of life is greatly diminished because of this problem.

The commission I propose would take a comprehensive approach, and it would focus on ways to improve aviation safety for the benefit of all Americans. Specifically, the bill would establish a Commission for Comprehensive Review of the FAA. It would look at both air traffic services and safety oversight by the agency, and make recommendations on both the organizational structure and processes of the agency. However, the recommendations must address FAA's organization within the existing structure of government, rather than through privatization.

The commission would have 24 members appointed by the President, and would include representatives from airlines, airports, employee unions, and pilots as well as the DOD and other relevant federal entities. The legislation requires that the commission request must be submitted to the Congress within one year of enactment.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great opportunity for the new administration to start off with a fresh approach in aviation. It is the perfect time for an unbiased, impartial and independent commission to present new findings—focusing on aviation safety—to help guide the FAA in the right direction for the future.

The recommendations from this commission could be extremely helpful to the new President and the new Congress as we consider how to make our aviation system more safe and efficient for the U.S. citizens and those who visit our country.

Ideally, as soon as the commission reports its findings, legislation could be considered by Congress to implement the recommendations so that we can quickly move forward to make the changes needed to correct the long-standing problems at the FAA.

H.R.—

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commission for Comprehensive Review of the Federal Aviation Administration Act".

#### SEC. 2. COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the Commission for Comprehensive Review of the Federal Aviation Administration (referred to in this section as the "Commission").

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Commission shall be—

(1) to review existing and alternative options for organizational structure of air traffic services, including a government corporation and incentive based fees for services;

(2) to provide recommendations for any necessary changes in structure of the Federal Aviation Administration so that it will be able to support the future growth in the national aviation and airport system; except that the Commission may only recommend changes to the structure and organization of the Federal Aviation Administration that are within the existing structure of the Federal Government;

(3) to review air traffic management system performance and to identify appropriate levels of cost accountability for air traffic management services;

(4) to review aviation safety and make recommendations for the long-term improvement of safety; and

(5) to make additional recommendations that would advance more efficient and effective Federal Aviation Administration for the benefit of the general traveling public and the aviation transportation industry.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) APPOINTMENTS.—The Commission shall be composed of 24 members appointed by the President as follows:

(A) 8 individuals with no personal or business financial interest in the airline or aerospace industry to represent the traveling public. Of these, 1 shall be a nationally recognized expert in finance, 1 in corporate management and 1 in human resources management.

(B) 6 individuals from the airline industry. Of these, 1 shall be from a major national air carrier, 1 from an unaffiliated regional air carrier, 1 from a cargo air carrier, 1 from the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and 1 from the National Association of State Aviation Officials.

(C) 3 individuals representing labor and professional associations. Of these, 1 shall be from National Air Traffic Controllers Association, 1 from the Air Line Pilots Association, and 1 from the Professional Airways Systems Specialists.

(D) 2 individuals representing airports and airport authorities. Of these, 1 shall represent a large hub airport.

(E) 1 individual representing the aerospace and aircraft manufacturers industries.

(F) 1 individual from the Department of Defense.

(G) 1 individual from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(H) 2 individuals from the Department of Transportation. Of these, 1 shall be from the Federal Aviation Administration and 1 from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation.

(2) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for a term of 18 months.

(d) FIRST MEETING.—The Commission may conduct its first meeting as soon as a majority of the members of the Commission are appointed.

(e) HEARINGS AND CONSULTATION.—

(1) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall take such testimony and solicit and receive such comments from the public and other interested parties as it considers appropriate, shall conduct at least 2 public hearings after affording adequate notice to the public thereof, and may conduct such additional hearings as may be necessary.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall consult on a regular and frequent basis with the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Defense, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(3) FACA NOT TO APPLY.—The Commission shall not be considered an advisory committee for purposes of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(f) ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND STAFF.—The Federal Aviation Administration may give the Commission appropriate access to relevant documents and personnel and shall make available, consistent with the authority to withhold commercial and other proprietary information under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Freedom of Information Act"), cost data associated with the acquisition and operation of air traffic service systems. Any member of the Commission who receives

commercial or other proprietary data from the Federal Aviation Administration shall be subject to the provisions of section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, pertaining to unauthorized disclosure of such information.

(g) TRAVEL AND PER DIEM.—Each member of the Commission shall be paid actual travel expenses, and per diem in lieu of subsistence expenses when away from such member's usual place of residence, in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(h) DETAIL OF PERSONNEL FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall make available to the Commission such staff, administrative services, and other personnel assistance as may reasonably be required to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this section.

### SEC. 3. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving the final report of the Commission and in no event more than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, after consulting the Secretary of Defense, shall transmit a report to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Appropriations, and Finance of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Appropriations, and Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(b) CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall include in the report to Congress under subsection (a) a final report of findings and recommendations of the Commission under section 2(b), including any necessary changes to current law to carry out these recommendations in the form of proposed legislation.

### SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

## INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ELIMINATE THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION PHASE-OUT AND THE ITEMIZED DEDUCTION PHASE-DOWN

**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing three pieces of legislation to refine the tax proposal put forward by President Bush. Let me state at the outset that I fully support President Bush's tax proposal as he laid it out. I think it is appropriate for the times and well-designed. Even so, there is no legislation or proposal that cannot be improved upon. And so I offer these three bills in this spirit and in the belief that the President in all likelihood would and should support them.

This bill takes as its starting point the income tax rate reductions proposed by President Bush, phased-in over ten years. I have included these rate reductions to provide the context for my proposed refinement, which is to repeal the phase-down of itemized deductions and the phase-out of personal exemptions contained in the current code. These provisions are sometimes known by the names of Pease and PEP, the former named for its originator. Congressman Don Pease, a distinguished Member of the Ways and Means Committee during the 1986 Tax Reform Act,

and the latter an acronym for personal exemption phases-out.

The income tax contains a number of unfortunate provisions that phase-out various credits, exemptions, and deductions. For example, the amount an individual can take as itemized deductions falls for married taxpayers with adjusted gross income (AGI) over a \$132,950 threshold. These taxpayers see a reduction in their total itemized deductions at the rate of 3 percent for every \$1,000 earned over the threshold. The proportion of a taxpayer's itemized deductions that can be lost due to this provision is capped at 80 percent of their otherwise allowable deductions. Similarly, for 2001 a taxpayer's allowable personal exemptions are reduced by 2 percent for every \$2,500 over and above \$199,450 in AGI. This provision raises the marginal tax rate by .8 percent for affected taxpayers.

The itemized deduction phase-down and the personal exemption phase-out exist for only one reason—to increase taxes on the affected taxpayers. Even more troubling, they do so by significantly increasing tax complexity. Even worse, they raise taxes by raising marginal rates and they do so, not through an explicitly higher statutory tax rate, but through a hidden device.

The reduction of marginal tax rates is a hallmark of the Bush tax proposal. High marginal tax rates discourage people from investing, saving, creating new businesses, and so forth. Reducing these rates is therefore one of the effective things we can do to ensure a stronger economy in the future. The bill I am introducing today eliminates two hidden marginal tax rate increases and is, therefore, completely consistent with the strategy of the Bush tax rate reductions.

The bill I am introducing today is also fully consistent with sound tax policy because it makes the tax code more transparent. Taxpayers ought to be able to determine with little effort the tax consequences of their economic decisions. Hidden marginal rate increases are therefore inconsistent with sound tax policy and ought to be eliminated.

Further, everyone involved in tax policy agrees that the tax code is too complex, too costly to comply with, and too costly to administer. This bill certainly does not sweep away all the cobwebs of complexity, but it will make the code simpler for those affected by these two provisions.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. RAYMUND PAREDES, ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR AT UCLA

**HON. HILDA SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Dr. Raymund Paredes, the Associate Vice Chancellor at UCLA. Dr. Paredes opened the doors of opportunity for many students from Los Angeles County through his leadership, direction and execution of academic development programs. He has served not only as a professional role model for Latinos across the United States, but most importantly as a positive role model to the residents of the 31st Congressional District.

He exemplifies how one person's commitment to public education can make tremendous changes towards improving our educational system. Raymund Paredes obtained his B.A., in English from the University of Texas at Austin, in 1964. He went on to earn his M.A. American Studies at the University of Southern California, 1969, and returned to the University of Texas at Austin for his Ph.D. in American Civilization, in 1973.

Dr. Paredes joined the faculty of UCLA's English Department in 1973. His research has focused on Mexican American literature and culture and the impact of demographic change on American culture, art, and education. A driving force in the emergence of Chicano studies as a discipline, he introduced Chicano literature courses to the UCLA curriculum and chaired the César Chávez Center for Chicana/o Studies from 1997 until 1999. He also served as an Associate Dean in the Graduate Division, overseeing the graduate fellowships unit as well as affirmative action programs from 1986 to 1989.

As Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Development since 1989, Raymund has been engaged in a broad range of activities encompassing K-12 and community college outreach, faculty recruitment and retention, curricular development, promotion of cultural and academic events, and, most recently, establishment of Community Education Resource Centers in five Los Angeles neighborhoods. He also worked on outreach in his capacity as Special Assistant to UC President Richard Atkinson from 1998 to 2000.

Dr. Paredes has long believed that by setting high expectations for students, they will eventually overcome their challenges. Dr. Paredes has been a strong advocate for the establishment of educational partnerships that lead to successful pipelines between high schools and four-year colleges, as well as between community colleges and Universities. He has played a most important role in outreach to the most disenfranchised communities in the state of California. He has helped further the goals of the first successful summer academy for migrant students from California.

Dr. Paredes has served as an appointed member to the Task Force on Latino Eligibility by the University of California from 1992-1997. He has also served as an appointed member of the Advisory Committee on Latino Education by the California State Department of Education, has served as an appointed member of the California Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards, has served as the co-chair of the Committee on K-12 educational research for the Inter-University Program for Latino Research and currently he is a Consultant on education to the Univision television network.

Dr. Paredes' true contributions to UCLA, the University of California, and the community at large far exceed the span of his myriad responsibilities. A champion of educational access, equity, and diversity, he has been a highly effective ambassador and leader on behalf of those causes. He has spearheaded landmark programs and forged relationships between the University and important local institutions—vital bonds that will endure because of his commitment and persistence.

Sadly, Dr. Paredes is leaving his position at UCLA, as he will be assuming the position of



Director of Creativity, Culture and Arts Programs at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York.

On behalf of the 31st Congressional District, I thank Dr. Paredes for your leadership, your service and most importantly for your commitment to improving the quality of life for students in the state of California.

IF MEDICARE CAN BUY A PROSTATE BIOPSY FOR \$178, WHY SPEND \$506?

## HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Medicare pays different amounts for various medical procedures, depending on where the service is performed. In general (but not always), we pay more for a procedure in a hospital outpatient department, less for the same procedure in an ambulatory surgical center, and often even less when that procedure is performed in a doctor's personal office.

Some people—the very frail or those who are quite sick—often need to be cared for in a setting where intensive support services can be quickly provided. But for most, these various procedures can be performed safely in a variety of settings.

For those who do not need back-up support, it would seem that Medicare ought to pay no more than the lowest cost site of service. I've introduced legislation to ensure that type of savings—savings that would run into the hundreds of millions per year.

The following letter from a group of doctors describes why we should enact this change—ASAP.

FEBRUARY 14, 2001.

Representative PETE STARK,  
Cannon House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: We are a group of six urologists. We are writing this letter to voice our concerns about, and ask for your help in clarifying/rectifying HCFA reimbursement policy as it relates to site of service payments.

To briefly summarize, three routine and frequently performed urology procedures are reimbursed at very different rates when performed in a physician's office versus an ambulatory surgical center. The procedures, corresponding CPT codes and associated payments are:

| CPT code and description                                      | Office pmt. | ASC pmt. |
|---|-------------|----------|
| 52000 Cystourethroscopy .....                                 | \$179       | \$418    |
| 52281 Cystourethroscopy w/urethral calibration/dilation ..... | 232         | 569      |
| 55700 Prostate biopsy .....                                   | 178         | 506      |

As you can see, if the bill for these procedures is sent to Part A Medicare instead of Part B Medicare the reimbursement is tremendously higher. This is true even though they are exactly the same service provided with identical equipment.

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) has stated "All else being equal, Medicare should pay for ambulatory care based on the service, not the setting in which it is provided." AUA Health Policy Brief, Page 5, December 1998). The major cost drivers of providing these services are basically identical regardless of site of service (cost of cystoscopes, ultrasound imaging

equipment, power tables, sterilization equipment, light sources, irrigation fluid, ancillary personnel, and cost per square foot of space). We believe this present policy adversely and unfairly affects all providers who aren't owners of an ASC as well as Medicare beneficiaries.

Medicare beneficiaries are concerned about access and quality of care. Presently we provide these services at four locations. Without a level reimbursement policy concerning site of service, we will have to consider closing some offices and congregating all or most of these procedures at one centrally located ASC.

## INTRODUCTION OF NO GUNS FOR VIOLENT PERPETRATORS ACT

## HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, today I join with twelve of my colleagues in introducing legislation that will help protect our communities by keeping guns out of the hands of our most violent criminals.

As an elected District Attorney for twelve years, I know that tough enforcement of our current laws is vital to keeping our communities safe. One of these federal laws in existence makes it illegal for convicted felons to possess a firearm. But would it surprise you to know that there is no similar prohibition on possession of a firearm by a person who has a juvenile adjudication of a violent crime? That is a fact. And it is a narrow loophole in the law that should be closed.

A constituent who owns a gun store in my district, Bob Lockett, brought this loophole to my attention. An individual with a conviction for a shooting death as a juvenile in California tried to purchase gun parts at his store. The State of Kansas has a law making it illegal for persons with a juvenile adjudication of a violent crime to possess a firearm. Therefore, when a search discovered the prior conviction, Mr. Lockett was able to prevent the purchase and notify the authorities. I commend Mr. Lockett for his actions and for bringing this matter to my attention.

Mr. Speaker, although I am grateful that Kansas has such a law, I believe that this should be a federal law to prevent violent perpetrators from possessing firearms nationwide. These individuals with a violent past should be prohibited from possessing firearms.

During my years as a District Attorney, I found that, to the victim of a violent crime, it makes little difference whether the perpetrator was an adult or a juvenile. I believe we all can agree that violent persons should not be able to legally possess a firearm.

Mr. Speaker, persons who have a juvenile adjudication for a violent felony should never possess a firearm. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

## THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2001

## HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the The Alternative Minimum Tax

Repeal Act of 2001 which will repeal the individual Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). The domestic tax system has dramatically changed since the creation of the AMT regime. Consequently, this tax regime has long outlived its purpose. Today, the AMT is punitive in nature, overly cumbersome and affects taxpayers who were never intended to fall into this tax trap. To immediately reduce the number of wage earners who are affected, my legislation will extend the current-law provision which allows personal tax credits to be applied against the AMT calculation. The proposal will also immediately increase the AMT income exemption level, originally added to the AMT structure in 1993, so that it is adjusted to reflect inflation since that time. Subsequently, it will increase the exemption amount annually by 10 percent. In addition, the bill will repeal the income limitation that currently applies to that exemption. Finally, at the end of a ten year period, the individual AMT will fully be repealed.

Included in the tax plan outline presented by President George W. Bush, was a statement in support of additional tax code changes that would provide relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax. Please join me by cosponsoring this important legislation. Eliminating the AMT will reduce the complexity of the tax code and remove another heavy burden shouldered by wage earners.

## INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REDUCE THE CORPORATE TAX RATE TO 33 PERCENT

## HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing three pieces of legislation to refine the tax proposal put forward by President Bush. Let me state at the outset that I fully support President Bush's tax proposal as he laid it out. I think it is appropriate for the times and well-designed. Even so, there is no legislation or proposal that cannot be improved upon. And so I offer these three bills in this spirit and in the belief that the President in all likelihood would and should support them.

The bill I am introducing takes as its starting point the income tax rate reductions proposed by President Bush, phased-in over ten years. I have included these rate reductions to provide the context for my proposed refinement, which is to reduce the top corporate income tax rate to 33 percent to be consistent with the top individual income tax rate in the Bush proposal of 33 percent.

The driving force of the Bush tax program is the importance of reducing tax rates. This is manifested in the reduction in the statutory tax rates, but also in such provisions as the doubling of the per child credit, the effect of which is to soften the high effective tax rates many lower-income taxpayers face due to the phase-out of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). When we reduce these "marginal" tax rates, we reduce the most important disincentives our tax system imposes on work effort, saving, and investment. Think of it! Just as an individual or a family starts to climb the economic ladder they face a marginal tax rate of almost 50 percent thanks to the combination of the federal individual income tax, the

phase-out of the EITC, the payroll tax, and any state income taxes imposed.

When it comes to tax policy, reducing marginal tax rates is the best insurance policy we can buy for ensuring a strong economy in the future. By reducing tax rates as he has proposed, the President would reduce disincentives for individuals, partnerships, sole proprietorships, and even for a special brand of economic organization called an S Corporation. However, his program does not provide similar relief to the more common corporate form, known as the C corporation. The bill I am introducing today extends the principle of reducing tax rates to the top corporate income tax rate faced by C corporations, which currently stands at 35 percent. My bill would reduce this tax rate to 33 percent, and in so doing would provide tax relief to almost all corporate taxpayers.

Reducing the corporate income tax rate to 33 percent would reduce the disincentive facing corporations to invest in new plants and equipment. Thus, the level of investment would increase, helping America out of its current economic slowdown and putting us on a path of stronger growth in the future. The extraordinary growth we experienced prior to the current slowdown was driven largely by productivity growth that is largely attributable to increased capital formation. Reducing the corporate income tax rate would encourage a resumption of this capital formation and, in the process, would increase the competitiveness of America's corporations and America's workers.

As the corporate community searches for tax relief that is broad in application, defensible in principle, and conducive to prosperity at home and greater competitiveness abroad, they can hardly do better than to reduce the corporate income tax rate as I have proposed in this bill. That is not to say that other changes would not also be beneficial. For example, repeal of the corporate Alternative Minimum Tax, reform of our international tax laws, and a thorough modernization of our system of capital cost recovery system would each be highly beneficial and worthy of consideration. However, in the context and an era of individual tax rate reduction, I believe a simple reduction in the corporate income tax rate has the greatest chance for success at this time. And so I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, modest though it is, to permit America's corporations and America's shareholders to share in tax relief while ensuring our companies remain strong and competitive.

#### RECOGNIZING LOUISE DAVIS

#### HON. HILDA SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the notable accomplishments and the extraordinary life of a woman from the 31st Congressional District of California.

Louise Davis is retiring from serving over 20 years of public office in the San Gabriel Valley. Louise served as the mayor of Monterey Park for three terms, from 1980 to 1981 and again in 1983. Prior to her mayoral terms, she was elected as "The Grass Roots Candidate," for Monterey Park City Council in 1976 where

she served for eight years. She was a unique council member who spent her time directly addressing her constituents' problems and working to make Monterey Park a better place for all its residents. After a brief break from public life to enjoy her children and grandchildren, Louise accepted the encouragement from residents and ran for Monterey Park City treasurer in 1988. She served in this capacity for 12 years and was known for her sharp wisdom and good judgment.

Louise was born and raised in Joliet, Illinois, graduated from St. Angelea's Academy where she was class president and received a scholarship to pursue her college education in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At the conclusion of World War II, she met Bill Davis and when he returned from the Navy, they were soon married. Louise and Bill Davis moved to Monterey Park in 1955 and raised seven children—all attended public schools. Louise became heavily involved with the PTA and the Mothers March of Dimes. She was appointed to the Community Relations Commission, where she worked to foster better ethnic relations in Monterey Park, a city known for its multicultural and diverse population. She served as the hostess of the City's Welcome Wagon in the 1960s, represented her community in the March of Dimes, served on the Monterey Park Boys and Girls Club Board, the President's Community Advisory Board of East Los Angeles College and the American Red Cross Board, San Gabriel Valley. She has also worked diligently to preserve the history of the City she served so well as President of the Monterey Park Historical Society.

Louise has served as a charter member and president of Hillhaven Health Care Center's Community Advisory Board and a charter member and chairperson of the Friends of the Seniors, Langley Senior Center.

Among her many honors, Louise was named, Woman of the Year by Soroptimist International, Monterey Park. She has been the recipient of the Most Valuable Citizens Award from the Monterey Park Boys and Girls Club, an Award of Merit from the Monterey Park Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Service Award from the Monterey Park Lions Club.

Louise Davis enjoys respect and notoriety from numerous residents of Monterey Park because of her vast contributions to the community. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this community leader for her exceptional record of civic leadership and invaluable public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this 107th Congress to join me in recognizing the tireless, grass roots work of Louise Davis upon her retirement on March 8, 2001 for her service to the constituents of California's 31st District and wish her good health and prosperity in her retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. PITKO

#### HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today, I am deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of William J. Pitko.

William J. Pitko was born on July 4, 1939 to Joseph Sr. and Mary Krulik Pitko. One of four

brothers and a sister, he leaves David, George, Joseph Jr., and Gladys Stahara. He also leaves two daughters, Laurie Pitko and Cindy Rawden, two granddaughters, and his companion.

For 16 years, William J. Pitko was treatment plant operator for the Mahoning County Sanitary Engineering Department. I knew he was a tremendous athlete from when we played football, baseball, and basketball together at St. Matthias parochial school. He dedicated much time and effort to his church, and proudly served his country in the U.S. Army.

William J. Pitko will be sorely missed in the Poland community. He touched the lives of many people, and was adored by all who had the privilege to know him. I extend my deepest sympathy to his friends and family.

#### RESTORATION OF WOMEN'S CITIZENSHIP ACT

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the third day of National Women's History Month to reintroduce the Restoration of Women's Citizenship Act, legislation that corrects an antiquated law that mars our Nation's history.

In 1922, Rose Bouslacchi, an American citizen, married Conrad Sabatini, a tailor by profession and an immigrant from Northern Italy. When the couple married, a Federal law existed which stripped women of their U.S. citizenship if they married resident alien men, but the law did not apply to men. Ironically, a year later the U.S. granted Conrad Sabatini the privilege of citizenship while his wife, Rose Bouslacchi, lost hers.

During the course of her life, Rose Bouslacchi reared a family of five daughters, each a college graduate and each a contributor to the well-being of our Nation. Four became teachers and one became a nurse. Rose Bouslacchi was an active member of her church and worked with her husband in the running of their business. Her life embodied the values of family and faith, representing the best of America. But, Rose Bouslacchi could never be called an American again.

Rose Bouslacchi was not alone. There were many women affected by this law. After decades of women voicing the gender inequities of our laws, Congress modified the law. In 1952, Congress enacted a procedure for women wronged by the 1907 law to regain their citizenship. A legislative oversight, however, failed to provide a procedure to enable deceased women to have their citizenship restored posthumously. Thus, many families like Rose Bouslacchi's have been left without any recompense. The Restoration of Women's Citizenship Act would grant U.S. citizenship posthumously to the women who were wronged in 1907 and were unable to benefit from the 1952 law.

I urge all my colleagues to celebrate National Women's History Month and honor those deceased women and their families by cosponsoring the Restoration of Women's Citizenship Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SEELY  
JOHNSTON

**HON. TIM JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on February 7, 2001, the 15th District of Illinois lost a dear friend in Seely Johnston. Seely was born May 25, 1903 and lived in the Champaign-Urbana area for all of his 97 years. During that time he made his mark as a Champaign City Council member, sporting goods store owner, and friend of all. Seely said he was always guided by the advice of his father who told him once that making a living is important, but not as important as making friends. Whether it was with the likes of Harry Houdini or one of the many University of Illinois students he had over for breakfast every Sunday morning, Seely took this advice to heart. There are few people, in each community and generation, who not only enrich lives during their lifetime, but also leave a legacy. Seely Johnston was one of these people. Without Seely, the Champaign-Urbana area would have been a lesser place.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO RE-  
DUCE THE ALTERNATIVE MIN-  
IMUM TAX RATE TO 25 PERCENT

**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing three pieces of legislation to refine the tax proposal put forward by President Bush. Let me state at the outset that I fully support President Bush's tax proposal as he laid it out. I think it is appropriate for the times and well-designed. Even so, there is no legislation or proposal that cannot be improved upon. And so I offer these three bills in this spirit and in the belief that the President in all likelihood would and should support them.

The first bill I am introducing takes as its starting point the income tax rate reductions proposed by President Bush, phased in over ten years. I have included these rate reductions to provide the context for my proposed refinement, which is to reduce the tax rates of the individual Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) from 26 and 28 percent to 25 percent, consistent with the reduction of an individual income tax rate under the Bush proposal from 28 to 25 percent.

The individual (AMT) is a complex and unfortunate aspect of our tax code. Most taxpayers are blissfully unaware that they are, in fact, subject to two federal income taxes—the regular income tax and the AMT—and that their annual tax liability is the greater of the two produced by these two systems. The modern AMT was intended to ensure that certain upper-income taxpayers paid a significant amount of tax. It was to achieve this objective by denying to these taxpayers certain deductions and exemptions available under the regular income tax. For example, in addition to denying taxpayers any of a set of “preferences”, such esoteric items as excess intangible drilling costs and a deduction for pollu-

tion control facilities, the AMT denies taxpayers the personal exemptions allowed under the regular income tax, and denies them a deduction for State and local taxes paid.

For a variety of reasons, the number of taxpayers, especially middle-income families, subject to the individual AMT has been soaring in recent years, and this trend is expected to continue. Ideally, the AMT should be repealed outright. The abuses the AMT was established to address have long since been eliminated from the income tax. Until full repeal becomes timely, however, we must at least ensure that matters do not worsen.

In the context of the Bush income tax rate reductions, the AMT poses additional problems because these rate reductions do not extend to the AMT rate. This means that many taxpayers currently subject to the AMT suffer the additional wrong of being excluded from any tax relief under the Bush program. This is patently unfair as many Members on both sides of the aisle have pointed out.

It also means that many more taxpayers will see far less tax relief than is intended. This would occur for those taxpayers whose current regular income tax liability barely exceeds their AMT liability. Once the Bush rate reductions are put into effect, these taxpayers' regular income tax liability will drop below their AMT liability. They will still receive some tax relief, to be sure, but far less than they expected and far less than was anticipated when the Bush proposal was developed.

The new income tax rate structure suggested by President Bush starts at 10 percent, and then rises to 15 percent, 25 percent, and finally 33 percent. The current individual AMT has two rates of 26 and 28 percent. My bill reduces the AMT rates to a single rate at 25 percent to be more consistent with the President's proposed rates. Thus, my proposal would reduce marginal tax rates for AMT filers so they, too, have a better incentive to work, save, and invest. Just as important, however, under my bill current AMT filers and near AMT filers would join with all other taxpayers in enjoying significant tax relief.

This legislation is sound tax policy. By any measure it increases fairness in the tax code. And it deserves the support of this Congress.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS G. FERN

**HON. KEN LUCAS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Thomas G. Fern, immediate past State Director of the United States Department of Agriculture in Kentucky.

For more than 35 years, Mr. Fern has served the people of Kentucky thru his work at USDA/Rural Development, formerly the Farmers Home Administration. Mr. Fern served as Assistant County Director, County Director, and District Director before being appointed State Director by President Clinton in 1993. His broad experience in agriculture, housing, and community development made him a strong advocate for the people of rural Kentucky. His wealth of experience and knowledge qualified him to serve on various committees and commissions such as the Kentucky Renaissance Committee, The Kentucky

Rural Water Resource Commission, and the Kentucky Appalachian Commission.

Mr. Fern administered with great professionalism the programs offered by USDA Rural Development, including Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Business Service, as well as the Empowerment Zone, Enterprise Community, and Champion Communities programs. Mr. Fern worked hard to help rural Kentucky reap the benefits of these programs. As a result, many community improvements were funded during Mr. Fern's time as State Director of USDA/Rural Development, and I and my fellow Kentuckians owe him a big thank-you. Projects funded under his leadership will improve the quality of life in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky for decades to come.

I rise today to commend Thomas G. Fern for his 35 years of service to the people of rural Kentucky. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him and wishing him well.

LEGISLATION TO SIMPLIFY THE  
EXCISE TAX ON HEAVY TRUCK  
TIRES

**HON. WES WATKINS**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would simplify the excise tax on heavy truck tires.

The IRS and the tire manufacturers are today laboring under an unnecessary administrative burden. The tire industry pays an excise tax on heavy truck tires that goes directly to the Highway Trust Fund. But the means by which the IRS collects the tax are inefficient and costly. Under the current collection system, the IRS requires manufacturers to weigh each line of taxable tires for each tire size, to track the sales and taxes paid for each tire, and to maintain burdensome compliance systems to verify sales and tax payments by weight. Manufacturers must determine if a tire is for a taxable highway use or for a non-taxable off-road use, and then track whether the purchasers are tax exempt. This system of tax collection is both onerous and wasteful; I propose we change it.

The legislation I am introducing today would reduce these administrative burdens without reducing any revenue to the Highway Trust Fund. It does this by revising the current system based on the weight of the tire to one based on the weight-carrying capacity of the tire. This new system would simplify the payment and collection of taxes for both the tire industry and for the IRS—resulting in reduced expenses for both.

We also may simplify this tax by adopting a bright line that identifies which tires are subject to the excise tax. Under the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as administered by the Department of Transportation, all tires sold in the U.S. for highway service are required to be marked with the maximum weight carrying capacity of the tire. The IRS would take the data already collected by the DOT and base its tax on the amount per pound of weight carrying capacity. And the tax rate would be set at an amount that provides revenue neutrality to the U.S. Treasury.

This much-needed bright line test would be simple to apply and easy to enforce: Tires that

meet the DOT test by being marked with the appropriate notation are subject to tax. Tires that are not marked cannot be used on the highway.

I encourage my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation.

**EXEMPTING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS  
AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES DIS-  
PENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FROM  
INTEREST CHARGES AND ADMIN-  
ISTRATIVE COSTS**

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Ms. MINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that exempts prescription drugs and medical supplies that are dispensed by the Department of Veterans Affairs from DVA's interest charge and administrative cost charge.

Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs charges interest and administrative costs for any indebtedness resulting from the provision of services and benefits to Veterans.

The interest rate, set by the Department of the Treasury, is 6 percent. The Department of Veterans Affairs has set the administrative rate at 50 cents per month. Veterans should not have to pay this interest charge or administrative collection cost. They should be responsible for the co-payment amount only.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMU-  
NITY REINVESTMENT MOD-  
ERNIZATION ACT OF 2001**

**HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce today, in partnership with my colleague, Rep. LUIS GUTIERREZ, the Community Reinvestment Modernization Act of 2001, a very strong piece of legislation to modernize our fair lending laws to keep pace with the times. We first introduced this legislation during the last session of Congress in July of 2000.

There are a lot of people who have worked very hard to bring us to this point today and I'd like to say a special word of thanks to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. In particular, John Taylor and Josh Silver have been instrumental from day one in drafting this legislation.

This bill is absolutely critical to helping creditworthy Americans gain access to credit and banking services. Since 1977, CRA has encouraged banks and thrifts to commit more than \$1 trillion in private reinvestment dollars for mortgages, small business loans and community development loans for traditionally underserved communities. In the Milwaukee area alone, CRA has channeled over \$200 million in lending to low- and moderate-income citizens and neighborhoods.

The timing for CRA is crucial. CRA will become less effective if it is not updated to keep pace with the rapid changes that are occurring in the financial services marketplace as a re-

sult of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial modernization Act of 1999. The Community Reinvestment Modernization Act of 2001 will ensure that the hundreds of thousands of Americans, most often minorities and the working poor, will continue to have access to capital and credit.

The bill is endorsed by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform NOW (ACORN).

In my hometown of Milwaukee, it is supported by the Mayor of Milwaukee, the Fair Lending Coalition, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, Hope Offered through Shared Ecumenical Action (HOSEA), the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Milwaukee, Milwaukee Innercity Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH), the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Select Milwaukee and the Legacy Bank.

So many people and institutions support this bill because CRA is not only the right thing to do, it is the profitable thing to do. According to a Federal Reserve Board report issued in July of 2000, 91% of home lending and 82% of small business lending under CRA is profitable. This is comparable to any other type of lending.

The bill we are reintroducing today will update CRA to match the increased market powers the Financial Modernization Act creates. It will make banks accountable again by updating CRA to cover all loans and lenders. This not only includes mortgage companies, but also insurance companies, investment firms and other affiliates of banks that will increasingly be offering loans and basic banking products in the new financial world.

In addition to extending CRA to all loans and lenders, the CRA Modernization Act of 2000 would: (1) Make insurance more available, affordable and accessible to minorities and low-income citizens; (2) improve data collection for small business and farm loans; (3) require a notice and public comment period for mergers between banks, insurance and investment companies; (4) require that HMDA data also include information on loan pricing and terms, including interest rates, discount points, origination fees, financing of lump sum insurance payment premiums, balloon payments, and prepayment penalties; (5) prohibit insurance companies that violate fair housing court consent decrees from affiliating with banks; and (6) penalize a financial institution and its affiliates through reduced CRA ratings if the institutions have engaged in predatory lending.

CRA is paramount to continuing the progress this country has made towards eradicating discrimination in the financial services marketplace. And it is imperative that we modernize this important law now. The bottom line is that CRA is good for business. It not only levels the playing field to make sure that all creditworthy Americans have access to capital and credit, it makes good business sense.

We hope you and all of our colleagues in the House will consider supporting the Community Reinvestment Modernization Act of 2001.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE  
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, HURON, OHIO

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, for the past 100 years, the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Huron, Ohio has served as a beacon of hope, strength and prosperity for Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Today the church celebrates its centennial and I want to recognize its contribution to Huron and all of Ohio.

What began as an idea of forming a congregation in 1901 in Huron, has become a century-long dedication to faith and family. The church has served as a place for friends, neighbors, colleagues and coworkers to come together to form a close-knit family. They all share a common bond centered around their dedication to their church. The importance of family values and family worship is of profound importance to the people of Huron, and they are proud of their church, their religious beliefs and their heritage.

First established as a parish early 1901, Pastor August H. Dornbrier held the first service in a little white German Reformed church that was rented then later purchased. Since then, the church and its congregation have had a vibrant history. The congregation has grown dramatically to more than 270 members from its early days when 42 people attended the first service. The congregation has had three homes where many of the rich German traditions have been upheld.

Located on the shores of Lake Erie, the church represents all that is good in our communities—grace, elegance and commitment. We, in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, are blessed to have such centerpieces in our communities. The strength of these communities relies upon the strength of our faith. The Ohio state motto, "With God all things are possible," truly embodies this concept.

One-hundred years after its founding, the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Huron, proudly celebrates its history—a story that is a testament to the congregation's enduring faith and extraordinary commitment to God and community. Huron is a much stronger community because of the work of the church and its members. I congratulate the congregation's perseverance and I am confident the church will be just as strong during its next 100 years of service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN RUIZ, THE  
FIRST HISPANIC HEAVYWEIGHT  
CHAMPION

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to salute John Ruiz, who with his victory this past weekend, becomes the first Hispanic heavyweight boxing champion.

The victory will be an inspiration to all Hispanic youth, and indeed to all Americans, that if you work hard, if you have tenacity, and persistence, and vision, there is nothing you cannot achieve. That is the American dream. The

hope that some day, greatness will rise up in all of us. In the past several decades, several notable Hispanics have fought for the world heavyweight title, and despite their valor, have not achieved it; when one reviews the list, one sees how great this achievement is:

1923—Luis “The Wild Bull of the Pampas” Firpo vs. Jack Dempsey  
 1968—Manuel Ramos vs. Joe Frazier  
 1968—Oscar Bonevena vs. Joe Frazier  
 1973—Joe “King” Roman vs. George Foreman  
 1977—Alfredo Evangelista vs. Muhammad Ali  
 1978—Alfredo Evangelista vs. Larry Holmes  
 1979—Ossie Ocasio vs. Larry Holmes  
 1983—Lucien Rodriguez vs. Larry Holmes

John’s win has special personal significance for me. As a former ball-player, both in school and semi-professionally, I recognize the special labors of our athletes, and the inspiration that athletics can play in our lives, particularly to minority youngsters. Athletics can be a motivating factor, something that gives us a sense of identity, something to work for. Athletics ultimately caused me to finish school, serve my country in the military, go to college, and become a community college trustee, Assembly Member, State Senator, and Member of Congress. It was not always easy, but I had role models, and I am pleased that John is a role model for today’s youth.

I would hope that Hispanic youth, indeed, all the youth of America, look at the achievement of John Ruiz and see they can reach equally great heights, whether it is in athletics, academics, or the world of business, science, public service, or the arts. America’s youth need to know that we believe in them, and they should believe in themselves. Because God gives us all talents.

In the short run, there is nothing so sweet as a victory, and nothing so stinging as a defeat. But what is ultimately important is good sportsmanship, good conduct, playing a worthy game, facing a worthy adversary. Living to fight another day. In that sense, both John Ruiz and Evander Holyfield are to be saluted and honored, for they fought with their hearts, they fought with their souls, they gave American an exhilarating match, one that demonstrated athletic artistry and great courage under fire. And they should raise their hands, together, in a clasp of goodwill, knowing they have fought the good fight, the noble fight. Their bruises will heal, but they will always share a brotherhood of having met in the ring, where champions are made, and courage tested.

I am sure that John’s community, where he got his start boxing, is very proud of his achievement. John’s hometown, Chelsea, has one of the largest Hispanic populations in Greater Boston. It has been a Mecca for some of the all-time boxing greats. I would also like to salute John’s family, his wife Sahara and their children John and Jocelyn on this achievement. And so I say, congratulations, God Bless.

## PRINTING OF A REVISED EDITION OF “BLACK AMERICANS IN CONGRESS, 1870–1989”

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of Authorizing the printing of a revised and updated version of the House document “Black Americans in Congress.”

I think it only seems fitting to pay tribute to the African American men and women who served in these hallowed halls. African Americans have a long history of serving in this great institution. For many years, they were not welcomed by all of their colleagues. Still these men and women persevered and paved the way for all of us serving in Congress today.

I am proud to stand here with nearly 50 of my colleagues in support of this bipartisan piece of legislation.

As a young man, I can remember admiring the work of Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to serve in the United States Congress from my home state of New York. Former Congresswoman Chisholm was first elected into office in 1968, as a representative for the 12th Congressional District of New York and served for 15 years until she retired in 1983.

She was a great advocate for education, day care and providing other resources to improve the quality of life in inner cities. She also fought to decrease defense spending and to end the military draft. I believe that Ms. Chisholm’s legacy is one that should always be remembered, honored and cherished along with many others. That is why this publication is so very important.

Since its last publication, an additional 40 distinguished African Americans have served in either the House or Senate. Moreover, many of the biographies of several senior members of the House have grown outdated and I believe that the time has come to revise and reprint this important historical work.

This legislation would allow the Library of Congress to revise the current volume under the direction of the Committee on House Administration. In addition, the bill would allow for the copying, binding and distribution of the book to Members in both the House and Senate.

Mr. Speaker, this next edition of “Black Americans in Congress” will undoubtedly be a great resource and a treasured addition to every member of the House and the Senate, as well as the Library of Congress and libraries throughout this country.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of this concurrent resolution.

## PERMANENT HOUSING HOMELESS PREVENTION GRANT RENEWAL ACT

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representatives WELLER, FRANK, QUINN,

SABO, BIGGERT, and LEE, I will be introducing the “Permanent Housing Homeless Prevention Grant Renewal Act.”

This bi-partisan legislation authorizes renewal of expiring Shelter Plus Care and SHP permanent housing rental assistance grants through the HUD Section 8 Housing Certificate Fund. Currently, some 75,000 vulnerable families, including veterans, disabled, mentally ill, and other families at risk of homelessness, receive monthly rental assistance under these two important McKinney-Vento Act homeless programs.

The legislation is supported by a broad group of national and regional organizations which fight homelessness, including Catholic Charities, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. These groups have jointly written “to offer our support and assistance in moving this important legislation forward,” and noted that “This bill will have the effect of providing new housing to more homeless people with disabilities, as well as preventing catastrophic losses of housing for some of the most vulnerable Americans.”

Renewing Shelter Plus Care and SHP permanent housing through Section 8 is a solution to the annual uncertainty over renewals. Currently, when the initial term of a Shelter Plus Care or SHP permanent grant expires, a grantee must re-apply each year for continued assistance. If a grant is not renewed, the families which are receiving rental assistance under the grant face the risk of eviction and homelessness.

This is not an idle risk. Just fourteen months ago, HUD failed to renew rental assistance grants for thousands of families nationwide. It took an emergency supplemental appropriations bill in July of last year to reinstate funding for these grants. In the interim, many communities were forced to scramble for funds to cover the gap; many families confronted the very real risk that they would lose their monthly rental assistance.

Last year, the House devised a permanent solution to this problem, as part of the House VA–HUD appropriations bill. That bill funded all renewals of expiring Shelter Plus Care grants through the HUD Section 8 Housing Certificate Fund. This approach would provide a reliable source of renewal funding. Unfortunately, the Senate did not go along with this approach, and the final conference report, while providing a separate account for renewals, does not provide a reliable, long-term funding source. The best approach was and still is renewal of all expiring Shelter Plus Care and SHP permanent housing grants through the HUD Section 8 Certificate Fund. That approach is embodied in the “Permanent Housing Homeless Prevention Grant Renewal Act,” which we are introducing today.

Moreover, this approach is justified on broad policy grounds. Congress routinely renews portable and project-based Section 8 rental assistance; only the most vulnerable families most at risk of homelessness face the annual risk of non-renewal.

Funding these renewals through Section 8 also means that critically needed new permanent and supportive housing proposals will not have to compete with renewals for scarce resources. And, providing a reliable source of renewals after the initial grant term will make it easier for project sponsors to build permanent housing.

I urge members to co-sponsor this important legislation, and urge Congress to renew all Shelter Plus Care and SHP permanent housing grants expiring in fiscal year 2002 through the Section 8 Certificate fund.

The text of the bill follows:

H.R.—

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homeless Prevention Permanent Housing Renewal Act of 2001".

#### SEC. 2. RENEWAL OF PERMANENT HOUSING GRANTS AND SHELTER PLUS CARE GRANTS UNDER HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND.

(a) SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM PERMANENT HOUSING GRANT RENEWALS.—Section 429 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11389) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) PERMANENT HOUSING GRANT RENEWALS.—For fiscal year 2002 and each fiscal year thereafter, there are authorized to be appropriated, from any amounts appropriated under the Housing Certificate Fund account of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, such sums as may be necessary for renewing expiring grants under this subtitle for permanent housing for homeless persons with disabilities."

(b) SHELTER PLUS CARE GRANT RENEWALS.—Section 463 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11403h) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) GRANT RENEWALS.—For fiscal year 2002 and each fiscal year thereafter, there are authorized to be appropriated, from any amounts appropriated under the Housing Certificate Fund account of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, such sums as may be necessary for renewing expiring grants under this subtitle."

DEDICATION TO MR. BERNARD  
HOLLANDER

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the record a letter to the Washington Post published on February 14, 2001, which cites the dedicated service of Mr. Bernard Hollander for 51 years in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. I

want to note that the long and distinguished career of Mr. Hollander includes two important contributions to American Samoa.

In the 1960's, Mr. Hollander prosecuted an antitrust case which opened up the petroleum storage facilities in American Samoa to multiple suppliers, thus bringing the benefits of competition in fuel supply to our economy. The court decree requiring open access to our petroleum market remains in place, and Mr. Hollander continues to represent the United States in the case.

Mr. Hollander was also instrumental in opening the American Samoa market to competition in long-haul air service. Acting as special counsel to the Governor of American Samoa, Mr. Hollander participated in proceedings before the Civil Aeronautics Board which authorized competition in U.S. air service to our territory. Prior to that case, only one airline was authorized to provide service connecting American Samoa with Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

I am pleased to note for the record the service of Mr. Bernard Hollander to American Samoa. We wish him many years of good health and good work.

#### LEGENDS OF JUSTICE

As a Jan. 30 news story reported, the Justice Department's eminent tax lawyer, Ernest Brown, has retired at age 94 after 30 years of service.

But Bernard Hollander, another Justice Department legend at age 85 and a former student of Ernest Brown's at Harvard Law School, continues to work in the department's antitrust division as he has for 51 years.

The public is fortunate to have the benefit of lawyers as talented and dedicated as Ernest Brown and Bernard Hollander.

ROBERT B. NICHOLSON,  
*Chevy Chase.*

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DANIEL  
H. RUFFLE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor police Captain Daniel H. Ruffle, who will be honored for his distinguished service as the Commanding Officer of the 63rd police precinct on Thursday, March 8th, 2001. Let it be known that he shares this honor with his wife of 27 years, LaVerne, and his daughter Adrienne.

Dan received his appointment to the New York City Police Department as a police train-

ee in June 1967. It was at that time he embarked on a thus far 34 year career. While working as a police officer assigned to the 79th and 60th precincts, Officer Ruffle displayed an intensity and drive in performing his duties that resulted in his being appointed as a citywide narcotics investigator in March 1977.

Dan Ruffle's exemplary work was recognized and rewarded with a promotion to Detective in October 1979. As a detective, Ruffle was assigned to the Manhattan Special Victims Squad. Dan's special sense of caring and inner strength became invaluable qualities as he handled some of the most difficult and heinous crime investigations a police officer must face.

In September 1983, Daniel Ruffle was promoted to Sergeant and served the communities of both the 68th and 60th precincts. As a supervisor, Ruffle's easygoing demeanor enabled him to encourage and develop relationships between the police officers and the community.

Police participation and community involvement continued to be areas that Dan Ruffle stressed during his tenure as a Lieutenant assigned to the 70th, 61st, and 62nd precincts. Dan also served as Lieutenant for the N.S.U. 10. While at the Neighborhood Stabilization Unit, Ruffle was responsible for training hundreds of new police officers. It was his personal insight into policing as well as his dedication to community service that Dan used to influence and develop the careers of the rookie officers in his charge. Many of whom have gone on to have outstanding careers as police officers.

December 1995 was when Daniel H. Ruffle was promoted to the rank of captain. He first served as the Executive Officer of the 67th precinct. It was not long before Dan was appointed as the Commanding Officer of the Brooklyn South Task Force. The Task Force under his direction was used on various occasions as a utility unit to provide back up, support, and expertise to local precincts.

The 63rd precinct became Dan's command in May 1997. It was here that Captain Ruffle's experience and continued pursuit of excellence were realized with consistent reductions in crime. Year after year the 63rd precinct has been lauded for all of the contributions that have been made in maintaining and improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods it serves. This is a result of the outstanding leadership of Captain Daniel H. Ruffle.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Daniel H. Ruffle is more than worthy of receiving this honor and our praises, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in recognizing this truly remarkable man.